

CLAIMS

5 1. A telephone docking station for coupling signals among a wireless telephone, a cordless telephone handset and a metallic telephone line, comprising:

 a multiple port telephone switch;

 a wireless telephone interface adapted to receive the wireless telephone and to couple wireless signals with a first port on said switch, said wireless telephone interface
10 having an output state indicative of the presence of the wireless telephone;

 a cordless telephone base unit having a radio transceiver adapted to communicate with the cordless telephone handset and adapted to couple cordless signals with a second port on said switch;

 a telephone line interface adapted to interface with the metallic telephone line and to
15 couple line signals with a third port on said switch, and

 a controller coupled to said output, and coupled to control said switch to connect said first port or said second port to said third port as a function of the state of said output.

20 2. The apparatus of Claim 1 and wherein said controller controls said switch to connect said first port to said second port if said output state indicates that the wireless telephone is present, or, said controller controls said switch to connect said third port to said second port if said output state indicates that the wireless telephone is not present.

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3. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising:
an actuator coupled to said controller, and wherein
said controller controls said switch to connect either of said first port or said third
port to said second port in accordance with actuation of said actuator.

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4. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:
a display indicator for indicating which of said ports are connected in said switch,
and wherein
said controller is coupled to drive said display indicator in accordance with the
current connection state of said switch.

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5. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:
a cordless handset operable to communicate data signals with said cordless
telephone base unit, said cordless handset having an actuator and operable to encode a
control signal in said data signals in response to actuation of said actuator, and wherein
said radio transceiver is coupled to receive said control signal from said cordless
handset and operable to communicate said control signal to said controller, and wherein
said controller controls said switch to connect either of said first port or said third
port to said second port in accordance with said control signal.

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6. The apparatus of Claim 5 and wherein:
said cordless handset further comprises a display indicator for indicating which of
said ports are connected in said switch, and wherein

said controller is operable to generate a switch state signal within said data signals and cause said cordless telephone base unit to communicate said switch state signal to said cordless handset, and wherein

5 said cordless handset is operable to drive said display in accordance with said switch state signal.

7. The apparatus of Claim 5 further comprising:

a display disposed within said cordless handset having a Caller ID display portion and a call indicator for indicating the source of a telephone call, and wherein

10 said controller is operable to receive Caller ID data from either of said wireless telephone interface adapter or said telephone line interface, and operable to couple said Caller ID data together with data indicative of the source of said Caller ID data to said cordless telephone base unit for communications thereof to said cordless handset for display of said Caller ID data on said display and for activation of said call indicator
15 indicative of the source of said Caller ID data.

8. The apparatus of Claim 5 further comprising:

a second actuator disposed upon said cordless handset for answering an incoming call, and wherein

20 actuation of said second actuator causes said cordless handset to communicate a answer signal to said cordless telephone base unit that couples said answer signal to said controller, and wherein

said controller is operable to cause said multiple port switch to coupled to presently ringing one of said wireless telephone interface or said telephone line interface to said
25 second port in response to said answer signal.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a speakerphone adapted to couple speakerphone signals with a fourth port on said switch;

5 an actuator coupled to said controller for selecting a speakerphone function, and wherein selection of said speakerphone function causes said controller to control said switch to connect said fourth port in place of said second port, thereby connecting the presently connected one of said wireless signals or said line signals to said speakerphone signals.

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10. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

an answering machine adapted to couple answering machine signals with a fourth port on said switch, and wherein

15 said controller is operable to control said switch to connect either of said first port or said third port to said fourth port upon receipt of an answering machine command identifying which of said first of third ports are to be coupled to said fourth port.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said controller is operable to produce said answering machine command indicating that said first port is to be coupled to said 20 fourth port if said cordless telephone base unit is presently engaged in a telephone call.

12. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said controller is operable to produce said answering machine command indicating that said third port is to be coupled to said fourth port if said wireless telephone interface is presently engaged in a telephone call.

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